For immediate release: June XX, 2007

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**US EPA Announces a Settlement Agreement for Investigation of the Olin Chemical Superfund Site**

**Boston** – The United States Environmental Protection Agency has reached a settlement agreement with Olin Corporation, American Biltrite Inc. and Stepan Company, whereby these parties will conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Olin Chemical Superfund Site in Wilmington, Massachusetts. EPA believes these parties, among others, are responsible for investigating and evaluating cleanup options for the site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, more commonly known as the Superfund statute). Under the settlement these parties, acting under EPA oversight, will formally investigate the site and evaluate means of addressing hazardous contamination found there.

EPA will hold a public information session in Wilmington on a future date to provide an overview of the settlement and answer questions. A copy of the signed settlement agreement will be made available to the public at the Wilmington Public Library. It will also soon be posted on EPA's web page, www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/index2.

EPA assumed primary responsibility for addressing hazardous substances at the site when, based on groundwater contamination, it added the Olin site to its National Priorities List in April 2006. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) had overseen the performance of several investigations by the parties under the state's voluntary cleanup program before referring the site to EPA. EPA expects to build on the results of previous investigations moving forward.

In addition to performing an RI/FS, the settlement requires the parties to continue certain activities, including operation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system known as Plant B, maintenance and performance monitoring of a slurry wall containment area, and design and implementation of a field-scale pilot test to evaluate the feasibility of extracting a plume of Dense Aqueous Phased Liquids (DAPL) from area groundwater.

The first phase of the RI/FS process will require the parties to compile existing data from multiple prior investigations into a comprehensive site report (known as a Focused Remedial Investigation Report). This report will provide an overview of current site conditions and will be used by EPA to determine what data gaps need to be addressed by additional field work and studies. The remedial investigation will also include various risk assessments – i.e., determinations of possible risks posed to human health and the environment by any contaminants present in site groundwater, soil, surface water, sediment and air. Once any field work is finished and the contamination at the site is fully characterized (consistent with federal data quality standards), the settling parties will perform a feasibility study to evaluate various technologies and methods of

addressing any contamination found to pose an unacceptable risk. These investigations and studies will all be subjected to EPA and MA DEP oversight.

Due to the technical complexity of the Olin site, and the possibility that different parts of the site may require more investigation than others based on existing data, EPA has divided the site into three distinct operable units (OUs). An RI/FS is to proceed concurrently at all three OUs as follows:

I. Operable Unit 1 (OU1) is the approximately 50-acre Olin property at 51 Eames Street in Wilmington. This includes the former facility area, the conservation area, the on-property ditch system, the calcium sulfate landfill, the slurry wall/containment area and all media except groundwater.

II. Operable Unit 2 (OU2) is defined as off-property surface water and sediment. This includes the off-property East Ditch, South Ditch, West Ditch and related areas.

III. Operable Unit 3 (OU3) is defined as all groundwater. This includes groundwater beneath the Olin property and groundwater elsewhere that has been contaminated from substances disposed of at the Olin property, such as the Maple Meadow Brook Aquifer.

Once the RI/FS for a given OU is complete, EPA will present a tentative plan to clean up that OU (assuming there is an unacceptable risk to human health and/or the environment at that OU). Following public outreach, and a period for review and comment by the public and all interested stakeholders, EPA will formally select a remedy in a Record of Decision.

"I was troubled when I learned of the closure of Wilmington's Maple Meadow Brook water supply. This settlement will ensure that resources from the settling parties are available to thoroughly evaluate groundwater contamination and all potentially impacted media at the Olin Chemical Superfund Site," said Robert Varney, administrator of EPA's New England office. "I applaud local representatives, officials and citizens for taking such an active interest in the site, and also want to acknowledge the efforts of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the settling parties for removing significant volumes of contamination, stabilizing conditions, and completing numerous investigations. We will build off of these accomplishments as we undertake a comprehensive investigation of the Olin site."

Chemical manufacturing began at the property in 1953. The facility at the site produced blowing agents, stabilizers and antioxidants, and other specialized chemicals for the rubber and plastics industry. Prior to approximately 1970, chemicals were discharged into several unlined pits and ponds in the central portion of the property.

Principal contaminants found in the groundwater at the site include ammonia, chloride, sodium, sulfate, chromium, and N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA). These chemicals

were also found to be present in several of Wilmington's municipal drinking water wells at Maple Meadow Brook. These wells were taken out of service in 2003.
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